

Message Text

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51

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AFDROUGHT

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ROME FOR FODAG

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TAGS: EAGR MR

SUBJECT: AUGUST RAINFALL STATISTICS, MAURITANIA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT789

SUMMARY: OVERALL RAINFALL PATTERN IN MAURITANIA SHOWS
CONTINUED DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN FAR EASTERN PART OF COUNTRY
WHICH NEAR-AVERAGE RAINFALL IN SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONS AND
LESS THAN AVERAGE RAIN IN SOUTH WESTERN AREAS.

1. PRELIMINARY AUGUST RAINFALL STATISTICS IN KEY AGRICULTURAL
AND LIVESTOCK AREAS AS COMPARED TO 29 YEAR AVERAGE (AVERAGE
FOR AIOUN EL ATROUSS BASED ON 19 YEARS):

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AUGUST 1973

AUGUST AVERAGE

AIOUN EL ATROUSS	30MM	114.9MM
ATAR	36MM	31.9MM
BOUTILIMIT	32MM	79.8MM
KIFFA	83MM	123.3MM
NEMA	68MM	116.7MM
ROSSO	90MM	118.7MM
TIDJIKKA	48MM	53.2MM

2. AUGUST RAINFALL STATISTICS CONFIRM PESSIMISM OVER HARVEST VOICED BY GOVERNORS OF 1ST REGION (NEMA) AND 2ND REGION (AIOUN). GOVERNOR OF 3RD REGION (KIFFA) HAD ALREADY TOLD US (REFTEL) THAT HE EXPECTED AT LEAST A FAIR HARVEST THIS YEAR AND IF RAINS CONTINUED AN "EXCELLENT" HARVEST. NEAR-AVERAGE RAINFALL FOR KIFFA TENDS TO SUPPORT HIS OPTIMISM.

3. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR OUAGADOUGOU DROUGHT MEETINGS, DIRAGRICULTURE TOLD US OVERALL PROSPECTS FOR GRAIN HARVEST WERE QUOTE CATASTROPHIC. BECAUSE OF LATE START RAINY SEASON (I.E. LITTLE OR NO RAIN IN MOST FARMING AREAS IN JULY) AND BECAUSE FARMERS LACKED SEED, DIRECTOR SAID ACREAGE PLANTED WAS FAR BELOW NORMAL. FAO SEED AIRLIFT, HE ADDED, CAME TOO LATE HELP ANY BUT BOTTOM LAND FARMERS, A MINORITY HERE. PROSPECTS FOR BOTTOM LAND CULTIVATION (CULTURE DE CRUE) WERE ON THE OTHER HAND EXCELLENT, HE SAID, PROVIDED SENEGAL RIVER CONTINUED RISE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. SHURTLEFF

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